

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 7, 2005. Claims 35, 37 and 39 to 46 remain in the application. Claims 35, 37 and 39 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 35, 37 and 39 to 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,229,540 (Tonelli) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0052995 (Idehara) and further in view of RFC 1907 (Case). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns registering hierarchical location information to a device. According to the invention, at a client computer, a user inputs device attribute information to search for a desired device. The client computer receives search results, which include device information of at least one device that satisfies the device attribute information. The search result is displayed in the form of an icon. When the user shifts the icon corresponding to the search result onto a map, location information corresponding to a first hierarchy and location information corresponding to a second hierarchy, which are defined on the map, are acquired. Then, the acquired first and second hierarchical location information is registered to the device. As a result, once the hierarchical location information is registered in the device, a user can search for the device based on either of the first or second hierarchies.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 35 is an information processing apparatus, comprising a transmission unit arranged to transmit

device attribute information input by a user to search for a desired device, a reception unit arranged to receive, as search results, device information of at least one device satisfying the device attribute information transmitted by the transmission unit, a first display unit arranged to display icons respectively corresponding to a device of the device information received as the search results by the reception unit, a second display unit arranged to display a map on which location information corresponding to a first hierarchy and location information corresponding to a second hierarchy are defined, an acquisition unit arranged to acquire the location information corresponding to the first hierarchy and the location information corresponding to the second hierarchy, which are defined on the map, when the icon is shifted onto the map, and a registration unit arranged to respectively register, to the device, the location information corresponding to the first hierarchy and the location information corresponding to the second hierarchy which are acquired by the acquisition unit.

Amended independent Claims 37 and 39 are method and computer-medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 35.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of displaying a map on which location information corresponding to a first hierarchy and location information corresponding to a second hierarchy are defined. Moreover, none of the applied art is seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of acquiring location information corresponding to a first hierarchy and location information corresponding to a second hierarchy, which are defined on a map,

when an icon corresponding to a device is shifted onto the map, and registering, to the device, the acquired location information corresponding to the first hierarchy and the location information corresponding to the second hierarchy.

Tonelli is merely seen to disclose discovering devices using an audit of devices on the network by a user, and then displaying the search result. In Fig. 52, Tonelli discloses that the location information is displayed on a search result screen. However, Tonelli is not seen to disclose that location information is registered to the device, much less that "hierarchical location information" is registered to the device. The Office Action admits these deficiencies in Tonelli. Moreover, Tonelli is not seen to disclose or to suggest the claimed acquisition step of acquiring the first and second hierarchy location information when the icon is shifted onto the map, much less that the acquired information is then registered to the device.

Idehara is merely seen to disclose the use of hierarchical location information, but this is distinguishable from displaying a map on which location information corresponding to a first hierarchy and location information corresponding to a second hierarchy are defined. Specifically, Idehara merely depicts the location information corresponding to one hierarchy, but fails to teach displaying plural hierarchies on the map. Moreover, the Office Action admits that Idehara fails to disclose the claimed registration process. Additionally, Idehara is not seen to teach the claimed acquisition step of acquiring the first and second hierarchy location information when the icon is shifted onto the map, much less that the acquired information is then registered to the device. Thus, any

permissible combination of Tonelli and Idehara is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention.


Case is merely seen to disclose registering location information to a device. However, Case is not seen to make up for the foregoing deficiencies of Tonelli and Idehara, and more specifically, Case is not seen to disclose or to suggest displaying a map on which location information corresponding to a first hierarchy and location information corresponding to a second hierarchy are defined, or at least the feature of acquiring location information corresponding to a first hierarchy and location information corresponding to a second hierarchy, which are defined on a map, when an icon corresponding to a device is shifted onto the map, and registering, to the device, the acquired location information corresponding to the first hierarchy and the location information corresponding to the second hierarchy. Thus, any permissible combination of Tonelli, Idehara and/or Case is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, each of Claims 35, 37 and 39 are believed to be allowable over Tonelli, Idehara and Case.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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